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Joint proposals for MYFF reporting

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Background

1. At the first regular session of the Executive Board in January 2004, members of the Board requested in decisions 2004/1, 2004/7 and 2004/10 that UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) explore options for reporting on results in a harmonized manner within the context of their respective mandates, and to submit proposals at the annual session 2004.

2. The Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Executive Director of UNIFEM jointly reviewed their existing reporting practices, taking into account the directives of each agency's mandate, agency-specific issues, and the need for results-oriented reporting.

3. Building on multi-year funding framework (MYFF) reporting, annual reporting experiences and joint consultations, UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM wish to submit a joint proposal to the Executive Board that directly responds to the Board request for harmonized reporting on results. The current reporting practices of the three organizations are outlined in part I below. The joint proposal for reporting on results following a harmonized schedule and timeframe is delineated in part II.

I. Current reporting practices

4. The three organizations currently follow different schedules for reporting on results to the Executive Board.

United Nations Development Programme

5. At the second regular session of the Executive Board in September 1999, UNDP issued its first MYFF for the period 2000-2003 (DP/1999/30). The four-year MYFF

*The Board request to hold formal consultations on harmonized MYFF reporting delayed submission of the present document.

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set out the framework for the specific organizational goals and intended results. It was against this framework, reinforced by the Administrator's Business Plans, 2000-2003 (DP/2000/8), that the results-oriented annual report (ROAR) was created to review progress towards results. Accordingly, between 2000 and 2003, UNDP issued – as addendums to the Administrator's annual reports – three ROARs, measuring the results for the previous 12 months against the established MYFF goals.

6. At the second regular session in September 2003, UNDP submitted its second MYFF, 2004-2007 (DP/2003/32), establishing within its framework the organizational goals and intended results for the subsequent four years.

7. Under both MYFF frameworks, UNDP made clear its intention to report on results for each year through the ROAR at the annual sessions of the Board. At the first regular session of the Executive Board in January 2004, UNDP submitted in document DP/2004/4 detailed proposals for a reporting framework aimed at providing succinct, analytical reporting to the Board to enable it to discharge its oversight functions and hold UNDP accountable for the results it has planned to achieve. UNDP believes that the new reporting framework that was approved by the Board at its first regular session 2004 represents a significant improvement over the reporting methodology and formats used during the first MYFF period. As requested by the Board, UNDP is presenting mock-ups of the new reports at the annual session in June 2004.

United Nations Population Fund

8. At the second regular session 2000, UNFPA submitted its first MYFF for the period 2000-2003 (DP/FPA/2000/6) to the Executive Board. This first MYFF set organizational results at the goal and output levels. Reporting on the MYFF was thus conducted on an annual basis as part of the annual report of the Executive Director to the Executive Board. Reports on the MYFF were submitted in 2001 (DP/FPA/2001/4, Part II) and 2002 (DP/FPA/2002/4, Part II); in 2003 the MYFF cumulative report, 2000-2003 (DP/FPA/2003/4, Part II) was presented to the Board.

9. At the first regular session in January 2004, UNFPA submitted its second MYFF 2004-2007 (DP/FPA/2004/6). The second MYFF established organizational results at a higher level, i.e., goals and outcomes. Because a one-year period would not allow sufficient time to demonstrate changes in indicators, UNFPA requested that the Board allow it to report comprehensively every second year on MYFF results.

United Nations Development Fund for Women

10. UNIFEM is currently beginning the implementation of its third MYFF 2004-2007, which the Executive Board approved at its first regular session 2004 in decision 2004/10. The Executive Board approved its two predecessors, the Strategy and Business Plans, 1997-1999 and 2000-2003, in its decisions 1997/18 and 2000/7, respectively.

11. UNIFEM provides a results-oriented annual report on progress towards the goals outlined in its MYFF to its Consultative Committee, and makes a biennial oral and written report to the Executive Board. UNIFEM also summarizes its ROAR into a

report, which is issued by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly annually. The report provides a summary of the recommendations that Consultative Committee members made with regard to strengthening progress towards results.

II. Proposed timeframe and focus of harmonized reporting

12. To harmonize these different reporting practices, the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Executive Director of UNIFEM wish to make the following proposal for reporting on results for the current MYFF cycle.

13. The three organizations agreed that it would be essential to maintain some form of annual reporting. They further agreed to report on MYFF results every two years in a comprehensive manner. In the intervening years, the agencies will report on selected development and/or organizational effectiveness results through their respective annual reports (UNDP ROAR, UNFPA annual report of the Executive Director and UNIFEM ROAR).

14. Taking into account that the current MYFF, 2004-2007, was approved in September 2003 for UNDP and in January 2004 for UNFPA and UNIFEM, the proposed reporting schedule for the next four years would be as follows:

- *First midterm report on the MYFF* (2005): This report, to be submitted to the Board at its annual session 2005, would provide an opportunity to assess progress in achieving MYFF results; to establish/review baselines against which results are tracked; to make modifications; and to review how the results achieved contribute towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- *MYFF cumulative report* (2007): This report, to be submitted to the Board at its annual session 2007, would present a comprehensive review of results and progress achieved over the MYFF period. The lessons learned from this review would be fed into the development of the next MYFF to be submitted at the second regular session in September 2007.
- *Annual report in the intervening year* (2006): This report, to be submitted to the Board at its annual session 2006, would focus on progress towards results over the previous year and contain in-depth analysis of selected, strategic MYFF-related issues. Issues such as the impact of the external environment on MYFF implementation, as well as organizational and programme effectiveness issues may also be featured in the report.

15. The harmonized reporting schedule proposed by UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM would help to ensure that reporting on results continues to occur on an annual basis, and in a comprehensive manner biennially.

III. Elements of a decision

16. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the joint UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM proposal for harmonized reporting on results as outlined in the present document.